



A SECOND

3.

LETTER

FROM A

Member of PARLIAMENT

TO HIS

Friend in the COUNTRY.

Together with,

The *Pacifick* FLEET; a New BALLAD.



Price Six-Pence.

Author

W. B. E. R.

FROM A

Member of PARLIAMENT

THIS

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THE R. B. E. R. NEW BALLAD.

Price Six-Pence

A SECOND
LETTER
FROM A

Member of PARLIAMENT

TO HIS

Friend in the COUNTRY;

Concerning the Sum of 115,000 *l.* granted
to make good the Civil-List Revenue.

CONTAINING,

Some REMARKS on the Methods general-
ly made use of in the *Passing our Money-Bills* in
the H. of C——.

To which are added,

Some CONSIDERATIONS on the Advantages
that must necessarily accrue to the Publick from a strict Ob-
servance of an Act pass'd the last Session of Parliament,
entituled, *An Act to prevent Bribery and Corruption in the
Election of Members to serve in Parliament*: With a short
SKETCH of the said Act.

Together with,

The *Pacifick FLEET*; a New BALLAD.

By the Author of the First Letter.

L O N D O N :

Printed for R. W. and sold by the Booksellers
of London and Westminster. 1729.

A Second

LETTER

MEMORIAL OF PARLIAMENT

TO THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

Concerning the sum of 15,000, granted
to make good the Civil List Revenue.

Some Remarks on the Methods generally
used in the House of Commons



Some Considerations on the Advantages
that must necessarily accrue to the Public from a Bill of
Parliament, and the manner of its being presented to the
House of Commons, and the manner of its being
debated in the House of Commons. With a short
Sketch of the Bill.

The House of Commons

By the Author of the First Letter.

LONDON:

Printed for R. W. and sold by the Booksellers
of London and Westminster. 1799.



A SECOND
LETTER
FROM A
Member of Parliament, &c.

S I R,



N my last Letter I sent you an Answer to the Questions you were pleased to propound to me concerning the late Act to grant 115,000 *l.* upon Account of Arrears in his present Majesty's Civil List Revenues; in this I have sent you some Account in what manner our Money-Bills generally pass through the House; and likewise a short Sketch of the many Advantages that must necessarily attend a due Observance of the Act passed the last Session of Parliament, intituled, *An Act to prevent*
B

gent Bribery and Corruption in the Election of Members to serve in Parliament; together with a short Abstract of the same.

THE Hypothesis universally held by you, and the worthy *Britons*, of your neighbouring Club, “ That every Senator makes himself agreeable to, and “ is esteemed and advanced by, a Ministry, in proportion as he is able and “ qualified to serve them; and that he “ that either by his Wit, or by his Intelligence, invents, projects or proposes, “ any new Scheme or Tax to load or “ burden his Fellow Subjects, be this “ new Scheme by Tonnage, Poundage, “ Malt, Mum, Perry, Cyder, or “ Ship-money, Sollicitors, Goalors, or “ Geneva, it matters not, so as this “ same Scheme will advantage any other Foreign Nation who will sufficiently pay them for it: That on “ these Conditions, it shall be exhibited, extolled, and embraced. In the “ first Place it must be recommended “ by the *Custody-keepers* of his Majesty’s Treasury, then it will swiftly “ and inevitably pass into an eternal “ Law,

“ Law, before ’tis either debated or
 “ understood; ”

THESE Sort of Maxims may go down with you Country Gentlemen, but they must with us admit of Disbelief and Contradiction; For in order to the passing of a Law we know many Ingredients and Forms are necessary: It must be offered in a Committee of the whole House of Commons, read, received, referred, reported, and resolved, then inserted, and particularized in a Bill, which is always prepared and brought in by Men of Eminence, and Distinction, and distinctly read a first and second time, then referred to a Committee, then amended, reported, ingrossed, and read the third time; all which particular Steps, and Essays, are specified in certain printed Votes, which go round the Nation, and the Subject who thinks himself in any sort affected or aggrieved thereby is at Liberty to petition against it. In the Upper House of Parliament, the ingrossed Bill passes through the same Regularities and Forms. After this his Majesty in his Cabinet Council con-

siders and determines upon this new
 propounded Law, before it comes near
 his Royal Sceptre. Now how can it
 be possible, that any Law, which runs
 through all these various Examinations
 in each of which it is canvassed, and
 tryed as in a Crucible, should contain
 any thing in it prejudicial or burden-
 some to the Kingdom, or to the Peo-
 ple, whom the said Law-makers are,
 by their solemn Oath, as well as by
 the original Tye and Obligation of Na-
 ture, bound to protect, secure and pre-
 serve from all Impositions and Grie-
 vances whatsoever? Can wise, and ho-
 nest, and disinterested Men, so bound
 up and circumscribed by these Rules,
 consent to and persevere in any Pro-
 positions, to the Damage of their Fel-
 low-Subjects, or to their own Disho-
 nour? Can they forget the Promise they
 respectively made their Electors to
 guard and protect their Liberties, Trade,
 and Estates? Can the Power of Gold,
 or the Force of Ambition, avail against
 these strong and innate Principles of
 Reason and common Sense? Is it not
 the Essence and Nature of all Laws, to
 aim at and provide for the Good and
 Welfare

Welfare of the Commonwealth, without Respect to any private Person, be he never so *Grand* or never so *highly in Favour*? If the *small* Sum of 115,000 *l.* was really deficient, as it was pretended, must the poor Subject be loaded with Distress and Calamities to make it good? Is that either reasonable or parliamentary? If the Noise of a Deficiency is a meer Pretence, *Fineness* and *Chicanery*; then the gaining the seasonable and immense Supply to the Treasury at a Time when their Schemes and Policies could not subsist without it, speaks aloud, and vindicates the Abilities of the Managers of it exceedingly, far beyond any that have for some Centuries sat in *St. Stephen's Chapel*.

IF to drain and impoverish our own Nation, bleeding and groaning as it lies under considerable Debts, and aggregate Funds, is a Vertue becoming the *Superintendant of the Finances of Great Britain*; and if there are such a Number of Patriots, who can be prevailed upon to lay aside the natural Regard they have to Study and Solitude, for the mere Sake of doing their Country Service

vice in Parliament; which Principle of Beneficence, and Publick Spirit, is so eager and predominant in them, that they are willing, either by the Nobleness of their Birth, Redemption, &c. &c. &c. to gain a Seat in *St. Stephen's Chapel*: Do you Country Gentlemen imagine, that these Men, whether they have attained their Ages of Discretion or no, must not in all Events follow their Leader? Can they go out of the Scent that is hot in the Nostril, when harmoniously led on by a Tongue musical as the Spheres? Would they not be liable to the Imputation of the basest of Ingrates, should they not with an implicit Faith go all the Lengths that is necessary and expedient to carry any Point for their own Preservation? Would you desire, or can you expect, that they shall desert, abandon or betray the very Author and Means of their Preferment? Are not Chariots, Equipages and Amours to be supported; Assemblies, Theatres and Masques to be haunted; and yet, you would tell these Blades of the Love of their Country, or of the heavy Load of Taxes: You may as well, and with as much Prospect

Prospect of Audience, or Success, attempt to trouble them with a Detail of the extream Miseries of their Fellow Subjects labouring and lingring under the sad and direful Influence of a general Decay of Trade all over the Land. Remonstrances may be made 'tis true in Print, and in Writing, and delivered too, every Day, at the very Door of the said Chapel, setting forth how many Thousands must suffer by this universal Tax, and much are they to the Purpose. The *Discontented* also within Doors by their Arguments and silly Computations may prove and demonstrate the Unreasonableness and Indeficiency of this Matter: But I would have you and the rest of your Society know, that these self-evident and undeniably-manifest Oppositions to the Money-raising Bills instead of rendring any Service to an afflicted Nation, seldom or never fail to expedite and hurry on the Bill which they are intended to obstruct; for 'tis a standing Rule among the Managers in the said Chapel, that when ever any Thing is propounded that is by any Means to raise Money, no Petition or Prayer whatsoever shall be

be offer'd, or even propos'd, against it. And if any one that is endow'd with more than a common Spirit and Fortitude, stands up in Vindication of his Oath, Honour and his Country's Cause, he is instantly either hunted, hiss'd, silenc'd, or laugh'd at; nay, he escapes well, if he is not call'd to a more severe Account. For it would be ridiculous to suffer any Proposition to be deliberately and sedately argued, that cannot bear any Sort or any Method of Reasoning about it. Would you then, Sir, be uneasy or surpris'd when these Kind of Patriots, active, and vigilant, and lucubrativè as they are, in passing such Money-raising Laws, and indolent as they are in obviating or redressing any Kind of National Grievance, or Distress; I say, can you, Tax-paying Gentlemen be surpriz'd when you see our Manufactures cease, or translated to foreign Kingdoms, and our Trade under an universal Stagnation.*

* *Vide* the Lords Protests this Year, wherein this Matter is fully explain'd and reconcil'd.

AFTER these Truths are inculcated and evinced to you, I hope you and your inquisitive Club will acquiesce, and sit down contented.

HOWEVER, Sir, in this melancholly Situation of our national Affairs, I shall endeavour to chear your drooping Spirits with some Considerations of the Advantages, which will necessarily flow from a strict Observance of an Act passed the last Sessions of Parliament, entitled, *An Act to prevent Bribery and Corruption in the Election of Members to serve in Parliament.*

THE Prospect, though I must confess it is at some Distance, of seeing *once more* the Subject left to his own voluntary Choice of electing whom he shall think most proper to represent him in Parliament, so delights me, that methinks I begin already to glow with something of that Transport, which must unavoidably fill the Breast of every true *Briton.*

THOSE base Methods, which in our great Cities have been but too too
C common,

common, of forcing Persons to vote for this or that Man, upon account of his being a Court-Favourite, Commissioner, or a Director of one or other of our great Companies, will then surely be at an End: For if any Man is obliged to give his Voice for any Person, contrary to his Inclination, through fear of being turned out of any Place of Profit, which he enjoys under the Government, or any Body, or Bodies, of Men; what is it, I would fain know, but bribing that Man?

As to the poor Tradesman, it is very often harder with him; for unless he will give his Vote for such a particular Person, or Persons, who shall be named by one of our great Companies from whom perhaps he has the most, if not all his Business, he shall be entirely turned out of that, which was the only Support of himself, and perhaps a numerous Family. This I am sure is (if any thing can be said to be so) worse than Bribery.

WHEN we have a Parliament chosen without the Influence, or Money, of any particular

particular great Men; then we may hope to see the truly noble Name of *Britons* become once more the Terror of a *Sp—sh* Monarch; and *Fr—*, if she does not pay us a just Deference, will be obliged to fear our Resentments. It is then, and I am afraid not till then, we may expect to see an injured Nation receive publick Satisfaction for the Injuries she has *tamely* suffered from her Enemies abroad, and from those avaritious Canker-worms which at present she is forced to cherish and enrich at Home.

As such Representatives can have nothing more at Heart than the Good of those Persons whom they represent; we may then hope for such Laws as will not only secure and enlarge our Trade, the true Support of the *British* Nation; but an entire Surrender of those Places, which by their Situation, are of the utmost Advantage to us, in order to the Protection of the most valuable Part of it.

WE may then expect to have our Fleets, which (even at present) seem

to be the Dread of the whole World, no longer kept rotting in our own Seas, but sent out, upon any proper Occasion, to re-establish that Honour, which was once the darling Characteristic of a *British* Navy.

IN short, Sir, the Advantages accruing from this wonderful Bill, will be so universally extensive, that there will not be a single Person in this Nation, but will soon be enlivened by its benign Influence. The Merchant may then with Safety send his Goods to foreign Markets, without any Apprehension of their being seized and detained; knowing that he has a *British* Parliament to appeal to, who will not in any respect *tamely* suffer any of our Neighbours to infringe our Prerogative, as to Trade, without shewing such a Resentment, as will be very terrible to the Aggressors. And as the Merchant will be by this Means encouraged to send his Goods abroad; so he will be enabled, in another sort of a Way than he has been of late, to employ our different Sorts of Manufacturers at Home: Our Complaints, which, on every Side, are now so loud, as
to

to Want of Trade, will be then hush'd into a general Silence; and our Poor, which for some Time have been the Burden (for Want of Employment) will then be the Advantage, of the *British* Nation.

AND as the Trade of this Nation will be thus increased, so in a great measure, those unhappy Disputes which have arisen among Friends, at former Elections, will then be laid aside: For no Person will have it to consider who gives most, so every one may the more easily determine who is the fittest to represent him in Parliament.

I HOPE you will excuse my Warmth on this Occasion, when you consider, that the Prospect I am taking is of those Advantages, which will arise to our Country from a Bill which was so unexpectedly passed by a Parliament from whom we expected nothing of that Nature.

AND now, Sir, I have given you some of my Thoughts what will be the invaluable Benefits that will accrue

crue to the Nation, in general, from a due Observance of the Bill; I shall take the Liberty of presenting the worthy Club, of which you are a Member, with a short Abstract of the Act itself.

THE Preamble to the Act sets forth a Truth that has been of late too notorious, *viz.* That our present Laws have not been sufficient to prevent corrupt and illegal Practices in the electing Members of Parliament. To prevent which, the Act appoints every Person, who shall vote for any Member to serve in any future Parliament (if any of the Candidates require it) to take the following solemn Oath.

I A. B. *Do swear (or being a Quaker, do solemnly affirm) that I have not received, or had, by myself, or any other Person whatsoever, in trust for me or for my Use and Benefit, directly or indirectly, any Sum or Sums of Money, Office, Place, or Employment, or Gift, or Reward, or any Promise, or Security, for any Money, Office, or Employment, or any Gift, in order to give my Vote at this*

this Election, or that I have been polled before at this Election.

THE Person who takes the Poll, if he refuses to administer this Oath, (which by this Act he is empowered to administer) forfeits 50 *l.* to be recovered with full Cost of Suits.

THE Act likewise requires the returning Officer to take the following Oath:

I A. B. Do solemnly swear that I have not directly or indirectly received any Sum or Sums of Money, Office, Place, or Employment, Gratuity or Reward, or any Bond, Bill or Note, or any Promise for any Gratuity whatsoever, either by my Wife, or any Person, to my Use, or Benefit, or Advantage, for making any Return at the present Election of Members to serve in Parliament; and that I will return such Person, or Persons, as shall to the best of my Judgment appear to me to have the Majority of Legal Votes.

AND to prevent any Persons pleading Ignorance of the Act, it enacts that every Person to whom any Writ shall

shall be directed for the Electing of any Member of Parliament, shall immediately after reading the said Writ, read, or cause to be read, the whole of this Act, and likewise that it shall be read at every General Quarter Sessions of the Peace, after *Easter*, and at every Election of the chief Magistrates in every Borough, Twon Corporate, and Cinque Port.

ANOTHER material Clause in the Act, is, That no Person claiming a Vote in Elections, from the 24th of *June* 1729. shall for his Vote, ask or receive any Money, or other Reward, by way of Gift, Loan, or other Device whatsoever, or shall contract for any, or shall refuse to vote; or if any Person by himself, or his Agents, shall by any Promise or Agreement, Fee, or Reward, procure any Person to vote, or refuse to vote, the Person so offending, shall forfeit the Sum of 500 *l.* for every Offence, to be recovered as aforesaid, with full Cost of Suit, and shall be disabled to vote in future Elections.

F I N I S.





THE
Pacifick FLEET:
A
New BALLAD.

GOOD People give ear, and I'll tell you a Story
Will tickle your Ears, if you wish *Britain's* Glory;
For in Rhyme sure the like was ne'er yet laid before ye,
Which no body can deny.

The *Spaniards* of late so haughty are grown
They pretend both our Towns and our Ships are their own,
And the latter they take still, 'tis very well known,
Which no body can deny.

Hereupon we sent Word, they would find it their best,
To give over those Pranks, for we lik'd not the Jest,
And they gravely reply'd, *They wou'd weigh our Request,*
Which no body can deny.

B

But

But still they went on, highly pleas'd with the Joke,
Our Traders were taken, our Merchants were broke,
Resolv'd if they cou'd, our stern Wrath to provoke,

Which no body can deny.

So our Wrath was provok'd, and our Rage was so great,
That a Fleet was equipp'd those proud *Spaniards* to beat,
And we sent for *Dutch* Help in a violent Heat,

Which no body can deny.

So the *Dutch* came to help us with Twelve Men of War
(For the *Dutch*, like the Devil, Injustice abhor)
And they knew that the *Spaniards* had not plaid us fair,

Which no body can deny.

So to *Spithead* they went, and at *Spithead* have lain,
But design very soon for to scour out the Main,
To retrieve us our Honour, and humble proud *Spain*,

Which no body can deny.

But when to this Purpose these Fleets are to weigh,
I believe yet no *Briton* will venture to say,
But this I am sure, they will fail, when they may,

Which no body can deny.

But

But in the mean time, as in Line they are laid,
 Most wisely they are of a double Use made,
 To our Nobles Diverſion, to our Foes they give Dread,

Which no body can deny,

For the Gentry all round, and Nobility too,
 To *Portsmouth* ride Poſt this *Armada* to view,
 As the firſt *Engliſh* Fleet was ſet out for a Shew,

Which no body can deny.

But as *France* will not bear Chriſtian Blood to be ſhed,
 Notwithſtanding a *WAGER* himſelf's at the Head,
 Fat Bucks in great Numbers have bled in their Stead,

Which no body can deny.

For the Cardinal thinks the ſame End we fulfil,
If we bear the Expence, tho' the Fleet does lie ſtill,
 For we ſo frighten *Spain*—They will do what we will,

Which no body can deny.

So the Fleet lies at Anchor, the Chaplains read Pray'rs,
 The Ladies are learning our Tarpawling Airs,
 And each Cook for each Day ſome new Diſhes prepares,

Which no body can deny.

The

The Treats are of Ven'son, of Rack, Punch and Jelly,
Cbaire entiere have the Ladies, as some People tell ye,
And few will return without *Tarr* in their Belly,
Which no body can deny.

So fail when they will, they will leave us at Home
A Brood of young Sailors for Ages to come,
Who will list Volunteers at the Sound of a Drum,
Which no body can deny.

On this Score alone the Expencc were well made,
For Sailors are wanting both for War and for Trade,
So the Scheme for the Publick was very well laid,
Which no body can deny.



F I N I S.

